



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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We have been delighted by the immediate response to our proposal to establish an 18th century Work in Progress section in the pages of this periodical. Everyone appears to agree that some new arrangement is necessary. As one English correspondent puts it, "the Humanities are much behind the Sciences in their system of keeping informed about all the important work that is going on." It would be better, of course, if the whole *W.I.P.*, for all fields, could be revived at once, but since this appears doubtful we will carry on as best we can for the Restoration and 18th century.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the first series of listings. By September or October we will hope to have collected many more. So sit down at once, even if you are on vacation, and send us a card describing your work. Remember that listing a topic for research carries with it no absolute preemption, no guarantee that others will not invade your field. There can be, and never ought to be, any vested rights in general literary research. But it is vital that every scholar should know about others with similar interests, and thus have the opportunity to consult with them.

One further note. Even if your topic was listed in the last official *W.I.P.* in 1942, send it in again with some comment on the progress of the work. It might be worth-while also to list any major projects which have been discontinued. Someone in the past may have been frightened away by your announcement, and now would gladly take over the investigation.

We hope to hear directly from every one of our active subscribers. But we hope you will do even more than that and will personally collect information from colleagues and students not on our mailing list.

Our Indispensable Eighteenth Century

You have probably seen Arthur Secord's review-article discussing the Univ. of Texas *Studies in English*, 1944, which appeared in the *J.E.G.P.* for April. We mention it in particular since Secord, when

pointing out recent activity in the classical period, pays the *Johnsonian News Letter* a very high compliment. Begun originally "out of sheer affection for Johnson and his circle," he writes, "it has become a clearinghouse for the whole eighteenth century." That is exactly what we hope and pray it will continue to be; but complete success depends on the cooperation of all of you.

The Augustan Reprint Society

Have you all seen the first issues of the Augustan Reprint Society? If not, you had better send in your subscription of \$2.50 at once to R.C. Boys (Michigan) or E.N. Hooker (U.C.L.A.) in order to be sure to have a complete set.

The first numbers, Blackmore's *Essay upon Wit*, and Samuel Cobb's *Discourse on Criticism and of Poetry* should be in the library of every 18th century enthusiast. And others equally as interesting are on the way. Excellent facsimilies, and cheap in price, these represent the triumph of modern scientific reproduction. Be sure to become a subscriber; and take it upon yourself personally to see that your college library also is on the mailing list.

Miscellaneous News Items

R.H. Griffith has written for the April, 1946, issue of the *South-Central Bulletin* of the Modern Language Ass'n a splendid description of the Rare Book Collection at the University of Texas. We cannot here repeat the long list of 18th century first editions which Griffith so proudly waves before our eyes, but we might quote in conclusion, as he does, the remark of Sir Edmund Gosse: "Who, in the future, will dare to edit a Queen Anne Worthy without making a preliminary journey to Austin, Texas!"

The Columbia University Press plans to issue, sometime in 1947, a complete subject index to Defoe's *Review*, compiled by W. L. Payne (C.C.N.Y.).

G.H. Healey has published a slim pamphlet containing some religious verses of Daniel Defoe, entitled "Meditations," transcribed from a manuscript notebook now in the Huntingdon Library. It is printed by the Cummington Press, Cummington, Mass.

We wonder if you have noticed how often some subject, after a long period of neglect, will suddenly be exhaustively treated in a number of independent volumes. A case in point is the dramatic work of Arthur Murphy. No important book on Murphy has appeared in over a century. Now in 1946 we are to have two large scholarly works

devoted wholly to the dramatist: first, J.P. Emery's (Temple) *Arthur Murphy: An Eminent English Dramatist of the Eighteenth Century*, just published by the Univ. of Pennsylvania; and second, Howard Dunbar's (N.Y.U.) *The Dramatic Career of Arthur Murphy*, issued in the M.L.A. series of volumes. Certainly, Murphy is in the news again!

William Thomas Morgan

We are deeply grieved to hear of the sudden death on June 9 of William Thomas Morgan, Professor of History at Indiana University. His great five volume *Bibliography of British History (1700-1715)*, with *Special Reference to the Reign of Queen Anne* is a valuable tool which all students of the period have welcomed. Certainly historical scholarship has lost an enthusiastic and devoted worker.

Changes of Address

Louis Landa has moved from Chicago University to Princeton; René Wellek from Iowa to Yale, as Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature; C.T. Houpt from Annapolis to The Principia College, Elmhurst, Ill.

Amos A. Ettinger will be Visiting Professor of History at Temple this next year; Louis Jones may be reached at Frederiksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, where he is to live while he completes a research project on a Guggenheim Fellowship; Clyde S. Kilby's new address will be 608 N. 9th Street, Columbus, Mississippi.

Ernest Mossner has returned from England, and will be back at Syracuse University in the fall.

This summer Dougald MacMillan (N.C.) is teaching at Northwestern; and Samuel Monk at the University of Minnesota.

Be sure to keep your editor informed of all changes of address.

News From England

Kenneth Sisam wrote from Oxford the middle of June of attending Nichol Smith's last regular lecture at the University. "It was on Dryden and very good, as one might expect from him on that subject. But before very long you will be seeing him in America." We know all our readers will welcome this last bit of news. If all goes well, the Nichol Smiths will be in this country in the early autumn, making their headquarters at Smith College with President Herbert Davis. We understand that Nichol Smith also plans some lectures at other institutions, which will give an opportunity for

his many old students and friends on this side of the Atlantic to see more of him.

John Butt has been appointed to the Chair of English at Newcastle, in succession to W.L. Renwick, who has gone to Edinburgh. Butt's new address will be King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2, England. In a recent letter he sends some news which will be welcome: "The Reading Room of the British Museum reopened last week. Quite a sentimental occasion. It was really very affecting to see the same old faces again, the same Cerberus to examine your ticket, the same old man to accept your hat and umbrella, and many of the same youths to bring you your books! The room looks much the same, too; but it is emptier of readers than it used to be. We miss our American friends, those migrants who reminded us of the approach of summer!"

"At present we are rationed to six books a day, and a reserve of 12 books which will not be kept for more than two days. And the North Library, with all 'Case' books, will not be available till July 1st. As I go in and out I notice signs of activity in the MS show room; so perhaps we shall have the MS Room back in action shortly. The scene outside has changed in several particulars. All but one of the little restaurants in Great Russell Street and surrounding streets have disappeared; so you will have to walk farther for a meal.

"I remember your once complaining how difficult it was to get the Twickenham Pope in America. We experience the same sort of difficulty over here. I have not yet seen Krutch's Johnson, and have heard of no more than four people who possess copies. I have seen no reviews of it either in our journals. And at last we are to have an English edition of Bronson's three essays. Better late than never."

This spring Herbert Davis gave a series of lectures at London University on Jonathan Swift, of which J.R. Sutherland writes, and the pleasure they gave to London listeners. The fact that they could be held at this time is a happy augury of an early return to normal scholarly interchange across the Atlantic.

News From Holland

Autrey Nell Wiley sends on a letter from H. Teerink containing news which will interest all our readers. He writes from Velp (G.) Holland: "Although the town where my wife and I (both 65 years old) lived, namely Arnhem, was badly hit by the war, and we ourselves suffered a great deal (4 times evacuated; practically all our furni-

ture burned, or stolen from us by the Germans; our house damaged), I am happy to say that the greater part of my valuable Swift library — and the most costly items among them — is in safety, so that I can continue my studies on my favorite author, and give my thoughts to a second edition of the Bibliography, for which I have already many new materials."

Teerink also adds that although the first edition of his Swift Bibliography is nearly sold out, a few copies still are available. We know that Teerink will welcome news from American scholars, for, as he puts it, "anything related to Swift always has my warm interest."

Work in Progress

General

ARTHOS, John (Michigan). *The Language of Natural Description in 18th Century Poetry* (The relationship of stock diction to the traditional language of poetry and science. To be published by the Univ. of Mich. Press this summer).

BOGORAD, Samuel N (Northwestern). *The English History Play in Restoration Drama* (A study of the uses of English historical materials in plays from 1660-1700, and of the relationship of such plays to critical theory on tragedy as history).

FOSTER, James R. (Long Island Univ.). *History of the Preromantic Novel in England* (A discussion of most of the minor novelists from Afra Behn to Ann Radcliffe, touching on some of the major ones like Marivaux, Prevost, Richardson, Smollett and Sterne, and attempting to describe the growth of romantic ideas, etc. in fiction).

HANN, Patricia (Queen Mary College, London). *The Imaginary Conversation in English Literature, 1700-1900*.

HAVENS, R.D. (Johns Hopkins). *Eighteenth Century Romanticism* (A study in the history of ideas — primitivism, orientalism, the medieval revival, etc.).

IRWIN, W.R. (Cornell). *The Revolt against the Hero* (A study of the rejection of the heroic ideal and the construction of a new ethos of "goodness" as these changes are manifested in English and French literature from about the middle of the 17th century to the time of the French Revolution).

KALLICH, Martin (Wayne Univ.). *The Association of Ideas and Critical Theory in 18th Century England*.

KNAPP, M.E. (1217 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.). *A Critical Study of the Prologues and Epilogues of the Eighteenth Century*.

PEAKE, Charles (Michigan). *English Domestic Tragedy in Relation to Theology, 1700-1750.*

SACKTON, Alexander H. (Delaware). *The Uses of Rhetoric in Literature* (A study of the tradition of rhetorical study, carried over from the Renaissance period).

SECORD, Arthur (Illinois). *Continental Backgrounds of the English Novel.*

WARTHEN, George (Gettysburg). *An Edition of The Rolliad.*

WASSERMAN, Earl (Illinois). *Elizabethan Poetry in the 18th Century* (a volume is already in the press).

WATSON, Melvin R. (Mary Washington College). *The Essay Tradition and the Magazine Serials, 1731-1820* (Principally concerned with the monthly miscellanies and the essay serials contained in them. A bibliography of over 200 items has been gathered, most of which have not been catalogued before).

WATT, Ian (St. John's College, Cambridge). *The Novel until the Death of Fielding and the Reading Public.* D.

WILLIAMS, Ralph M. (Trinity College, Hartford). *A Study of Poetic Language, 1725-1785* (Emphasizing the 18th century romantics and their contribution to the poetic diction, etc. of the period).

Addison, Joseph

BOND, Donald F. (Chicago). *A Critical Edition of the Spectator.*

THORPE, C.D. (Michigan). *Addison's Literary and Aesthetic Theory.*

Blackmore, Sir Richard

BOYS, R.C. (Michigan). *Sir Richard Blackmore and the Wits* (A study of "Commendatory Verses on the Author of the Two Arthurs" (1700), etc.).

Defoe, Daniel

MOORE, J.R. (Indiana). *A Biography of Daniel Defoe.*

PARSONS, Coleman O. (C.C.N.Y.). *The Sources of Defoe's Duncan Campbell.*

PAYNE, W.L. (C.C.N.Y.). *A Study of Daniel Defoe As Author of the Review.* D. (Columbia) (Now being published by the King's Crown Press).

Dryden, John

BOTTKOL, J.M. (Mt. Holyoke). *The "Formalized Epithet" in Dryden's Verse.*

Some Unnoted Political Allusions in Dryden's Translations.

HOOKER, Helene Maxwell (400 S. Saltair Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.).

Dryden's Georgics: a Definitive Edition (the Dryden translation on one page, and the Dauphin text on the facing page; parallel passages from Dryden's predecessors also will be included).

HUNTLEY, Frank (Michigan). *The Unity of John Dryden's Criticism*.

MONK, S.H. (Box 25, Princeton, N.J.). *A Survey of Recent Dryden Scholarship*.

MURPHREE, A.A. (Univ. of Florida). *The Critical Opinions of John Dryden*.

WALLERSTEIN, Ruth (Wisconsin). *A Study of Dryden's Elegies*.

Dyer, John

WILLIAMS, R.M. (Trinity College, Hartford). *A Biography and Selection from the Works of John Dyer* (In collaboration with Dr. Edward A. Parker of Haileybury College, Hertford, England. It is hoped that the work will be published in 1947).

Garrick, David

KNAPP, M.E. (1217 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.) *A Catalogue of Poetry of David Garrick* (completed).

Hume, David

MOSSNER, Ernest (Syracuse). *David Hume: Man of Letters* (A definitive biography of Hume).

_____, together with W.G. MacLagan (Glasgow Univ.) and Raymond Klibansky (Oriel College, Oxford). *A Supplementary Volume of Hume's Letters* (Will contain over 75 hitherto unpublished letters. The editors would be very glad to hear of any further unpublished Hume manuscripts in private or public collections).

Johnson, Samuel

BLOOM, Edward (Illinois). *Samuel Johnson as Journalist*. D.

CARROLL, Richard (Michigan). *A Study of Johnson's Lives of the Poets: the Relation to Johnson's Other Criticism and the Criticism of the Period*. D.

Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley

HALSBAND, Robert (Northwestern). *The Literary Career of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu*. D (Columbia)

_____. *The Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu* (A new edition of her correspondence — to be followed ultimately by a definitive biography).

Pope, Alexander

CALLEN, Norman (Queen Mary College, London). *Pope's Homer, with an*

edition of his *Iliad*, Book I. D.

Savage, Richard

TRACY, C.R. (Univ. of Alberta). *An Edition of the Works of Richard Savage*.

Smart, Christopher

CALLEN, Norman (Queen Mary College, London) *An Edition of Christopher Smart for the Muse's Library* (Routledge).

Smollett, Tobias

BRITTON, W. Earl (Michigan). *The Educative Value of Smollett's Fiction* (A study in some aspects of Smollett's thought).

KNAFF, Lewis M. (Colorado College). *A Biography of Tobias Smollett* (To be completed this summer).

Steele, Sir Richard

BLANCHARD, Rae (Goucher). *An Edition of Steele's Minor Journals* (Two volumes — I. *The Englishman* (first and second series), II. *The Lover, The Reader, Town Talk, The Theatre*).

SEELY, Frederick F. (Allegheny). *A Study of the Quotations from Shakespeare Appearing in the Tatler and the Spectator* (An attempt to discover Steele's and Addison's practice in quoting from the plays, and what texts they used, and whether the quotations have any relation to the plays currently appearing in the theatres).

Sterne, Laurence

EAVES, T.C.D. (Rutgers). *Graphic Illustration of the Novels of Laurence Sterne 1760-1810* (with a descriptive catalogue of all paintings, prints, and drawings).

Swift, Jonathan

BOGORAD, S.N. (Northwestern). *The Reputation of Jonathan Swift in America* (Any suggestions or bits of information will be gratefully accepted).

EHRENPREIS, Irvin (Indiana). *Swift's Concept of Liberty*.

_____ *An exhaustive biography of Jonathan Swift*.

WILEY, Autrey Nell (Texas State College, Denton, Texas). *The Annotated Copies of Swift's "Verses On the Death of Doctor Swift."*

Thomson, James

McKILLOP, A.D. (Rice Institute). *The Background of Thomson's "Liberty"* (To be on somewhat the same scale and plan of the *Background of Thomson's "Seasons"*).

WILLIAMS, R.M. (Trinity College, Hartford). *An Edition of the*

Letters of James Thomson.

A Blast

As we expected and hoped, the little quotation from T. S. Eliot contained in our last issue has brought a violent reaction from some of our readers (Remember, we did not say we agreed wholeheartedly with Eliot's claim that Johnson and Goldsmith should be considered major poets).

R. M. Smith (Lehigh) boils over: "Be ashamed, for overthrowing critical judgment for mere 18th century enthusiasm. No poet can be called *Major* because of one poem. To maintain so is to throw overboard all standards, and resort to pure liking and impressionism.

"You should read W. P. Trent's *The Question of Greatness in Literature*. Prepared originally in answer to some queries propounded by students of a course in the Columbia Summer Session of 1901, it was published in the *International Monthly* for May, 1902.

1. Supremely great — Homer, Sophocles, Vergil, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Goethe (Universality of genius).
2. Very great — Petrarch, Chaucer, Spenser, Montaigne, Swift, etc.
(No great sustained masterpiece of universal appeal: of national importance).
3. Great — Horace, Dryden, Wordsworth, Keats, Tennyson, Browning, Emerson, etc.
4. Important — This is where Trent, I think, would put your two — and correctly — and he answers completely your irresponsible impressionism! So your little 18th century gods, therefore, are not "major" but Important.
5. Minor —

"I am still hoping that 18th century scholarship will have come to something more than the enthusiasm that comes from historical accuracy and biographical interest — and will develop standards of taste, and pay respect, as Trent says most wisely, to the following: "We ought to make it almost a matter of duty not to indulge in hyperbolic laudation of any save the noblest authors."

What about it? Any defenders of T. S. Eliot in our midst?

Johnsonian Apocrypha

William Mathews (U.C.L.A.) writes about some dubious stories of Johnson, not unknown to research Johnsonians, but possibly not very familiar to many casual readers. These appear in Francis Grose's *Olio* (1793). We

copy them here in the hope that some of our readers may like to comment on their credibility, or may be able to supply further evidence which will help to trace their origin.

"Doctor Johnson's Dictionary was not entirely written by himself; one Steward, a porter-drinking man, [a touching note in view of Grose's own reputation as the best porter-drinker in England W.M.] was employed with him; Steward's business was to collect the authorities for the different words.

"Whilst this Dictionary was in hand, Dr. Johnson was in debt to a milkman, who attempted to arrest him. The Doctor then lived in Gough-square. Once on an alarm of this kind, he brought down his bed and barricaded the door, and from the window harangued the milkman and bailiffs in these words: 'Depend upon it, I will defend this my little citadel to the utmost.'

"About this time the Doctor exhibited a proof that the most ingenuous mind may be so debased by distress as to commit mean actions. In order to raise a present supply, Johnson delivered to Mr. Strahan the printer, as new copy, several sheets of his Dictionary, already printed and paid for; for which he thus obtained a second payment. The Doctor's credit with his Bookseller not being then sterling, and the occasion for money very pressing, ways and means, to raise the supply wanted, were necessary to prevent a refusal.

"These circumstances the author mentions that he received from a person who was concerned in printing the Dictionary."

Mathews adds: "By the way, when is someone going to do justice in article or book to the very worthy porter-drinking 'antic-queer-one' himself? I have a line on a MS diary which Riddell the Scottish antiquary kept during the time that Grose was in Scotland in his company, collecting material for his Antiquities of Scotland and being Burns' beloved 'chiel amang ye takin notes.' If it proves worth while, I'll photograph it while I'm in England, and make it available in print or film to anyone with enough of a bottom of good sense to appreciate the good qualities of that whoreson round man, whose butt was of sufficient nobility to entitle him to the urchin's cry, 'My Lord!'"

A Johnson Club at the University of Akron

At your editor's suggestion, Arthur Coon has written a description of a new Johnson Club at the University of Akron. Begun last year by Harlan Hamilton, it has been carried on by Coon, his successor. The Club "serves as a semi-social, semi-departmental English club, with different kinds of meetings: some teas, some dinner meetings, some evening meetings; at some, papers are read, at others, people just

talk, and at still others, business is discussed. Meetings are held about once a month. I don't know just what the membership is now, but Hamilton told me that a hundred members were secured when the organization was founded. Each member pays a dollar, and - an interesting feature - becomes a *life member*. It is our idea that, as the years go by, the club will become an important local literary influence in this vicinity (since most graduates continue to live in Akron) and that there will be joint undergraduate-alumni meetings, which will tend to help along undergraduate-alumni relations in general.

"The club has brought speakers to the campus and has sponsored a literary motion picture, and the publication of a literary magazine, called (appropriately) *Hodge*, after Dr. Johnson's cat - "a very fine cat, a very fine cat indeed."

Boswell on the Transatlantic Radio

At 11:30 A.M. on July 7th some of you may have chanced to hear Rousseau Van Voorhies, alias Boswell of the Chicago Boswell Club, on the program "Yours Sincerely" hold forth on the efficacy of tea-drinking as practiced by Johnsonian Teaers. The program was broadcast through the courtesy of the Columbia Broadcasting System and the British Broadcasting Corporation. How "Jamie" himself would have loved to appear on a transatlantic hook-up!

A New Test of Mental Decay

Douglas Bush, when discussing the dangers of specialization, in his article "Scholars, Critics, and Readers" (*Virginia Quarterly Review*, Spring, 1946), writes: "I date my own mental decay from the time when I had to give up the annual reading of Boswell." We suspect that Bush's plaint will strike an answering chord in many of you. More and more the complexity and the sheer mass of modern scholarship force the serious student to give up reading for pleasure outside his own field. Certainly it is a serious matter! Yet what can we do? Here in a periodical devoted to specialized scholarship we might well consider our predicament.

